OLR Bill Analysis sSB 937

AN ACT CONCERNING CARE FOR ELDERLY PERSONS IN A HOME SETTING RATHER THAN A NURSING HOME FACILITY.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the social services (DSS) commissioner, in consultation with the public health (DPH) commissioner, to:

- 1. develop a plan to ensure that, starting January 1, 2016 at least 75% of elderly people (ages 60 and older) requiring long-term care receive it in a home setting instead of a nursing home facility (it appears to assume that this percentage would select and be functionally eligible for home care);
- 2. conduct a study by October 1, 2013 to gather certain information needed to implement the plan;
- 3. convene a working group by October 1, 2013 consisting of state agency, long-term care consumer, and long-term care provider representatives; and
- 4. present the plan to the Aging, Human Services, and Public Health committees by December 31, 2014.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013

STUDY REQUIREMENTS

The bill requires the study to project the:

- 1. number of elderly residents needing long-term care starting January 1, 2016;
- 2. percentage of these people who are functionally capable of receiving long-term care at home;

- 3. federal and state funds available to support long-term care starting January 1, 2016; and
- 4. savings from providing home care versus nursing home facility care to 75 percent of those needing long-term care.

The study must also identify necessary labor force changes and the plan's impact on nursing home facilities.

WORKING GROUP COMPOSITION

The bill requires the working group to include (1) elderly long-term care consumers, home care providers, and for-profit and nonprofit nursing homes, or their representatives and (2) DSS and DPH staff overseeing long-term care services and regulations. The bill does not specify the group's responsibilities.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/07/2013)